

THE new President of the Royal Academy has none of the personal panache which endeared (and sometimes disendeared) his three predecessors to the general public.

Mr. Charles Wheeler would be recognisable as an artist in any company: for his flat, broad-brimmed black hat and custom-built suit with tweed-covered buttons are just such as Dr. Maurice himself might have determined. There is little of the Bohemian about him. "Fair, kind, quiet, genial, precise, deeply conscientious" are some of the words his col-

and not in painting, that cluding teachers and students, English portraiture is now from Sopron University. strongest.

#### Who Stays Home?

Since the Suez crisis, and particularly since petrol rationing was announced, there has been a greatly increased interest in emigration to the Commonwealth.

At South Africa House, telephone and personal inquiries have risen by 30 per cent., and New Zealand House has been swamped under calls, letters, telephone calls and personal visits. Australia House has had more than 5,000 applications and inquiries since the end of November, and, when details of petrol rationing were announced, personal inquiries leapt from 120 to 270 and then 367 in consecutive days.

Rhodesia House has much the same story to tell.

#### Canada's Prize

Canada House has missed the deluge and thinks the onset of the Canadian winter may be the reason. But, in the same period, it has been arranging for the influx of 10,000 Hungarian refugees.

Mr. John Pickersgill, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, told the House yesterday for Canada after a while to go round the refugee camps. He is immensely impressed by the quality and character of the exiles.

Mr. Pickersgill, a Newfoundland M.P. who was educated at Oxford and Manitoba Universities, joined Parliament only in 1953 but was a Minister within a year.

Shortly he will report to his Government a remarkable prize—the transfer to Canada of the entire School of Forestry, in



THE NEW P.R.A.

leaves of him, and although he claims to be quite teetotal ("I always drink toasts in port") there is nothing of the pothouse hero in his nature.

With his Victorian good looks (well caught in the drawing by Mr. Delmar Banner which I reproduce here) and unostentatious courtesy he seems to do a good job in the Army, a fair name. He may also do something to further the belief, which has lately gained much ground, that it is in sculpture,

# PEOPLE and THINGS: By ATTICUS

that swans, developed his own bird detergent in co-operation with the Düsseldorf chemical firm of Boehme Fettechemie, before the last birds had been fished out of the river.

Reports of the plight of our ornithologist, who has swans in German newspapers closely guarded secret. The German had helped to save, and before he flew off again, I packed his bag, complete

with detergent and equipment, and hurried over to Putney with the last birds had been fished out of the river.

But he keeps his formula a secret to the three

foam baths the treatment

powder, and that the swans seemed to enjoy the three demands.

Penned in the garden behind the R.S.P.C.A. clinic, I saw the swan that had helped to save, and before he flew off again, I indeed from the Suez Canal.

Friday, I wished him, on behalf of all bird-lovers, a heartfelt happy Christmas.

#### More Secrets

It is suggested that American airborne troops could be called upon for local punishment or defence action.

The army has three divisions, of which the 101st Airborne consists of 11,500 men in five combat groups of five companies each.

It is equipped with self-propelled, anti-tank 90 mm. guns, and 28-foot "Honest John" solid-fuel rockets which carry atomic warheads twenty miles. Unfortunately, this single 5,000-ton division would require practically the whole of the U.S. Air Force Transport to lift it.

"The Reporter" comments that getting the American Fire Brigade to a fire would, to say the least, be a problem of some magnitude.

Noted.

#### Mea Culpa

"The curious use by Atticus of the masculine adjective culpus."

Makes one wonder whether he'd think it rung.

If we started calling him Atticus.

Pro Bonus Publico.

This is the most polite of the jibes hurled at me since last Sunday.

Edinburgh, 1957

NEXT year's eleventh Edinburgh Festival is bedevilled, as are many graver enterprises, by the deterioration of Anglo-Russian relations. The Talbot Rice's exhibition of Byzantine art may suffer, in particular, by the non-arrival of items from Russia and Hungary.

The guards did not shoot, but who can be sure that General Neubil is alive today?

Read and Burn

ARMIES' whereabouts are generally considered to be secret but, since the facts are published to the world in "The Reporter" — that excellent American magazine now available in London — there seems no harm in passing the order-of-battle of the American Army on to my readers.

American ground troops are at present located as follows:

KOREA, 2 ARMY, GERMANY, 5 ATOM, JAPAN, 1 ATOM, HAWAII.

Swedish Ballet is coming across from Stockholm.

This is rich fare, and there will be much more besides.

#### Royal Cryptogram

PRINCESS MARIE LOUISE lived just long enough to put her memoirs into the success which they deserve. They were almost as great a triumph, it seems to me, for the printer's readers as for the authoress, for Princess Marie Louise's handwriting set problems for even the late Michael Ventris might have been hard put to solve.

I append a specimen which

*Diamond Star  
tell him and  
Cleopatra  
De Leston  
across the centre  
of the Marie  
a "pavé" &  
envelope*

has come into my hands: the notes which the Princess made at No. 10, Downing Street in reply to the question "What Ball?" — "Diamond star with diamond" — is as far as I can get: perhaps some budding champion can decipher the rest?

#### People and Words

"America needs a foreign policy that the American people can understand, that our friends can understand, and that the world can understand, one which outwits our enemies."

SENATOR STYLES BRONZER, U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee

to the defense of America on the present effectiveness of the United Nations.

"The Hungarian people, the Hungarian language, the Hungarian government must ultimately rest on the shoulders of the Hungarian people."

—MR. ANTHONY BEVAN, M.P.

"The Hungarian people, the Hungarian language, the Hungarian government must ultimately rest on the shoulders of the Hungarian people."

—MR. ROBERT PONSONBY, M.P.

"Some of the most permanent taxes are directly descended from the French, and the chief of these is income tax."

—MR. PATRICK GORDON WALKER, M.P.

"The American turned against us, the Labour Party turned against us, from a conflict of discolorities."

—HORACE SMITH, a Senior Common Room